



The Role of CPS and Investigation

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.



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THE CPS MANDATE



...protect the children's current and future safety and well-being, while strengthening and preserving the family unit wherever possible

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Misconceptions about CPS



CPS works alone to investigate all child abuse

If a family is referred to CPS, the children will always be removed and placed in foster care

CPS staff decide how long children remain in foster care

CPS is not accountable to anyone

Types of Child Abuse



- **Physical Abuse**
- **Sexual Abuse**
- **Emotional Abuse**
- **Neglect**
 - abandonment
 - physical
 - medical
 - lack of supervision
 - substance exposed newborns



CPS Team



- **Reporting Sources**
- **Friends**
- **Family**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Schools**
- **Medical Community**
- **Therapist/Counselor/Social Worker**
- **Community Partners**



Joint Investigation



- CPS will to share all information in the file with both the NARC Case Agent and the Child Abuse Case Agent.
- The NARC Case Agent and the Child Abuse Case Agent will provide the CPS Investigator with all their information.
 - **Pictures of the scene**
 - **Scene surveys**
 - **Reports (booking summary and photos are appropriate for initial CPS TDM and Court Hearing)**

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Types of DEC Cases



Level 1 Cases

Response to Clandestine Lab Settings

- Active Cooks
- Boxed labs
- Chemical/Equipment Storage
- Dumping of Waste Material

Level 2 Cases

Other Drug Environments

- Use
- Possession
- Sale
- Transport/distribution
- Brokering/Conspiracy
- Exploitation i.e. “smurfing”, “Mules”, etc.

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25/10/2004

CPS Response to a Drug Home



- Detectives contact the CPS Supervisor/Investigators during working hours / hotline after hours.
 - **No CPS report is necessary to respond to the scene of a Meth Lab**
 - **Monday through Friday 8am – 5pm CPS Supervisor can be contacted for a Search Warrant situation involving children and respond. CPS becomes the “Source” to the CPS Hotline.**
 - **Contact made prior to search warrant / welfare check/ Knock and Talk/ During Search Warrant/ During Routine call for service**
 - Briefing (NARCS and Child Crimes Detectives)
 - CPS can provide hx and possible living situation of family

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CPS HISTORY CHECK



- Is there an open dependency case?
- Have there been prior child abuse referrals?
- Child safety information for Law Enforcement or CPS at the scene
- Law Enforcement and victim safety information (i.e. dogs, disabled family members, etc.)

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Once The Location Has Been Secured By Law Enforcement



- 1. Do Not Enter the Home or Drug Site!**
- 2. Make immediate contact with the DEC Officer**
- 3. Contact children AFTER you have been briefed by the DEC Officer**
- 4. Wear protective gloves & foot wear when necessary**
- 5. Always have vehicle covers**
- 6. Do NOT take children's personal clothing or toys**
- 7. Transport to the nearest DEC medical facility**

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When CPS is at the Scene



- DEC RV should be at the scene to assist with caring for the children (where available).
- Gather all lab details of what was found.
- Ensure all necessary photos are taken.
- Gather any information the parents provide regarding the lab, and the children. Serve TCN to both parents if at the scene..
- Speak with the Case Agents regarding the children's clothing...it may need to be collected for evidence.
- Speak to Case Agent about the Forensic Interview....
 - **They need to provide the authorization**

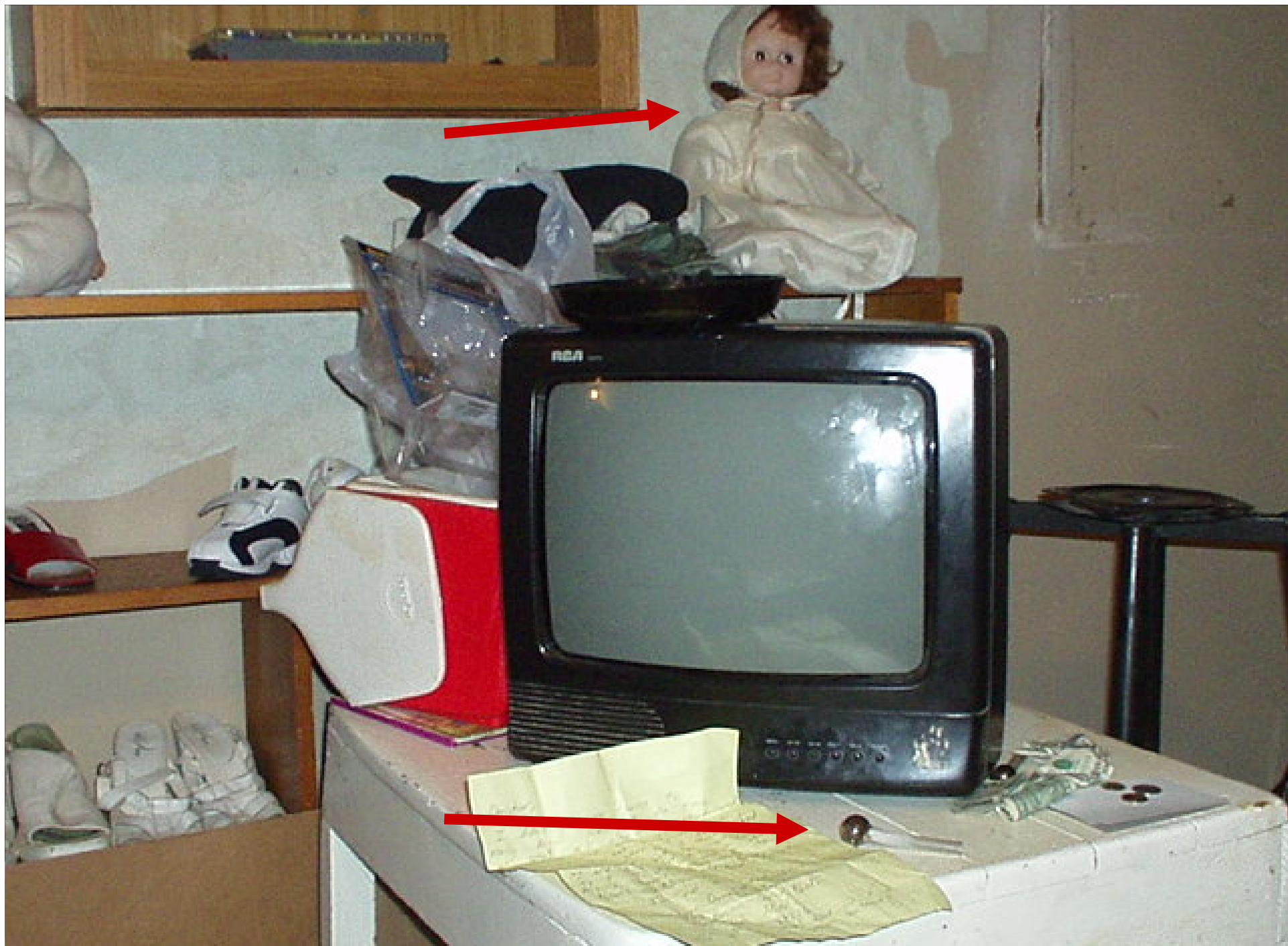
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Evidence Collection



- Physical condition of the children
- Child's access to drugs or chemicals
- Living conditions
- Play area
- Food supply
- Children's bedroom or sleeping arrangements
- Bathroom conditions

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Kitchen Counter on Microwave



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Home Assessment / Investigation



- **Location**
- **Proximity**
- **Accessibility**
- **Attraction**

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Assessing Environmental Risk



- Drugs and drug paraphernalia
- Booby traps
- Exposed wiring
- Guns and weapons
- Accidental ingestion of chemicals and contaminated food
- Adult role models involved in criminal behavior
- Chemicals found in the Refrigerator
- Hazardous sleeping area conditions
- Visible/Accessible pornographic material
- Chaotic home environment
- Poor supervision

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When CPS leaves the scene:



- Call will be made to the CPS Hotline, CPS is the source of this report
 - **Need to provide detailed information of the lab, and other safety concerns found in the home.**
- Medical Staff are notified and children are transported to the Advocacy Center.
- At the Advocacy Center the children are showered and given clean clothing and the clothing from the lab is bagged as evidence.
- The Children are fed and hydrated.
- Once the child is clean and fed
 - **Forensic Interview**
 - **Medical exam**
 - **Crisis Counseling provided if deemed necessary**
- Foster Home or Relative placement is located for the children

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Forensic Interview

Suggested Questions



- Do you know why the police came to your house?
- Who lives in the house with you? Who sleeps where?
- Who takes care of you? Who wakes you up in the morning? Who makes your meals?
- Have you ever been left alone or with someone you did not know?

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Suggested Questions cont.



- Have you ever smelled or seen anything strange or weird in your house?
- Do you know what drugs are? What do they look like?
- Are there ever times when you feel sick? Do you get headaches? Does your nose ever hurt?
- Ask the child whether there are weapons or guns in the house?
- *NOTE: Make complete assessment (child abuse/neglect/domestic violence and forensic evaluations of the dangers the child is exposed to.)*

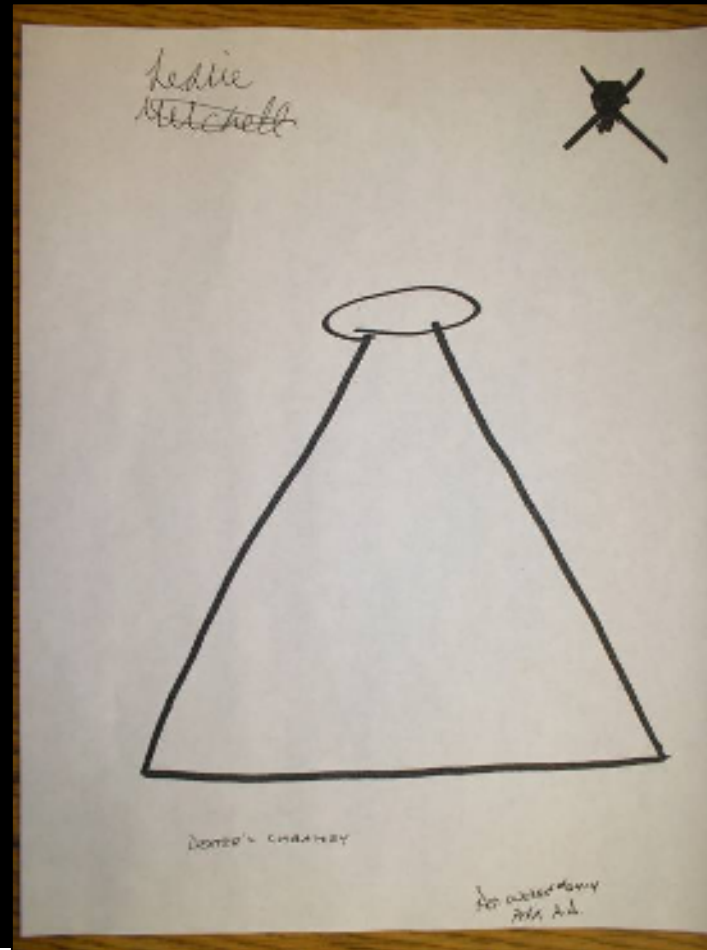
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Child's Forensic Interview



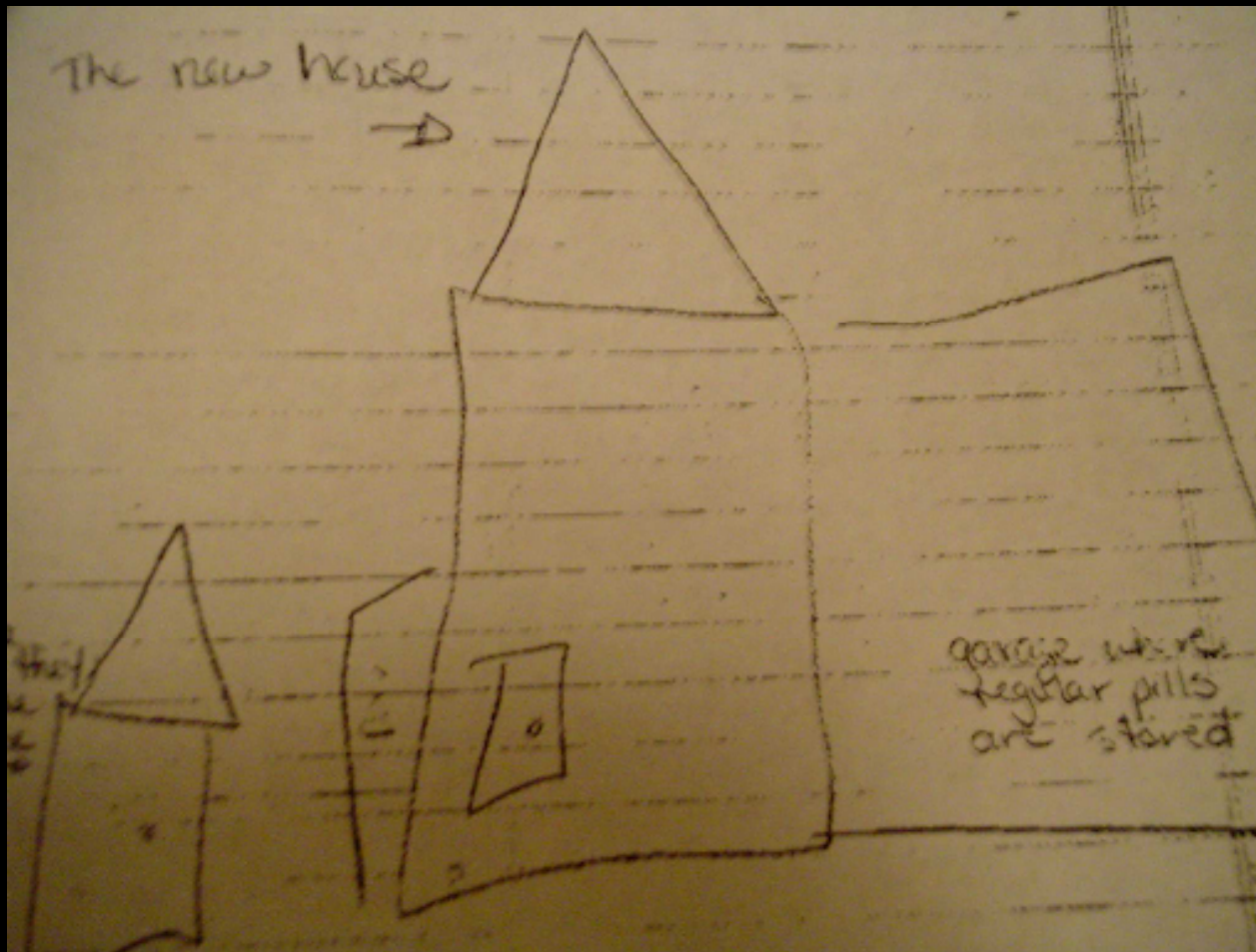
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Child's Forensic Interview



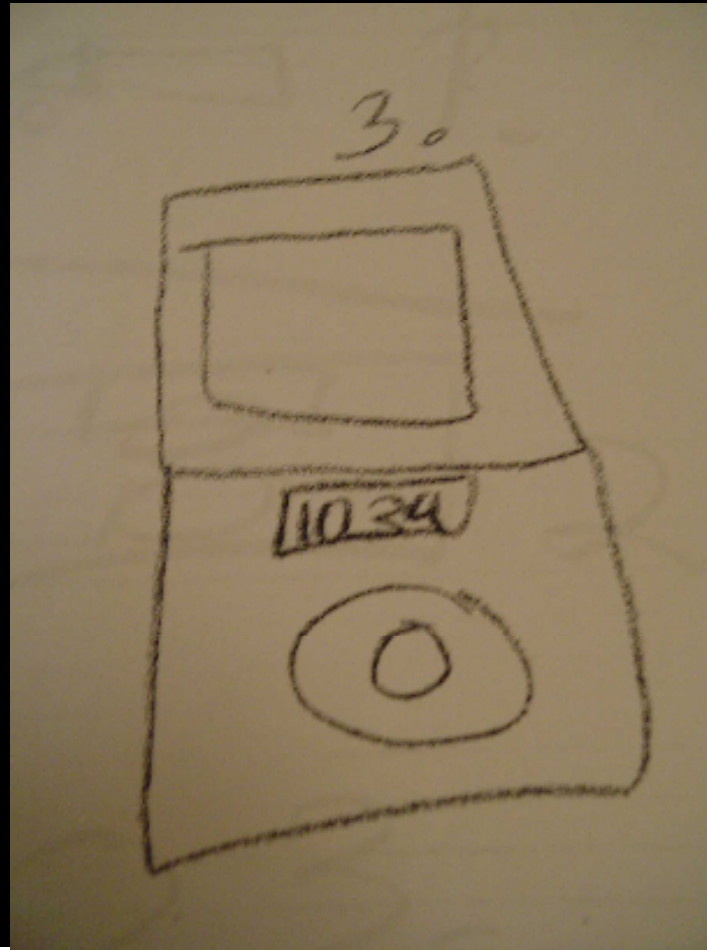
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Through the eyes of a child



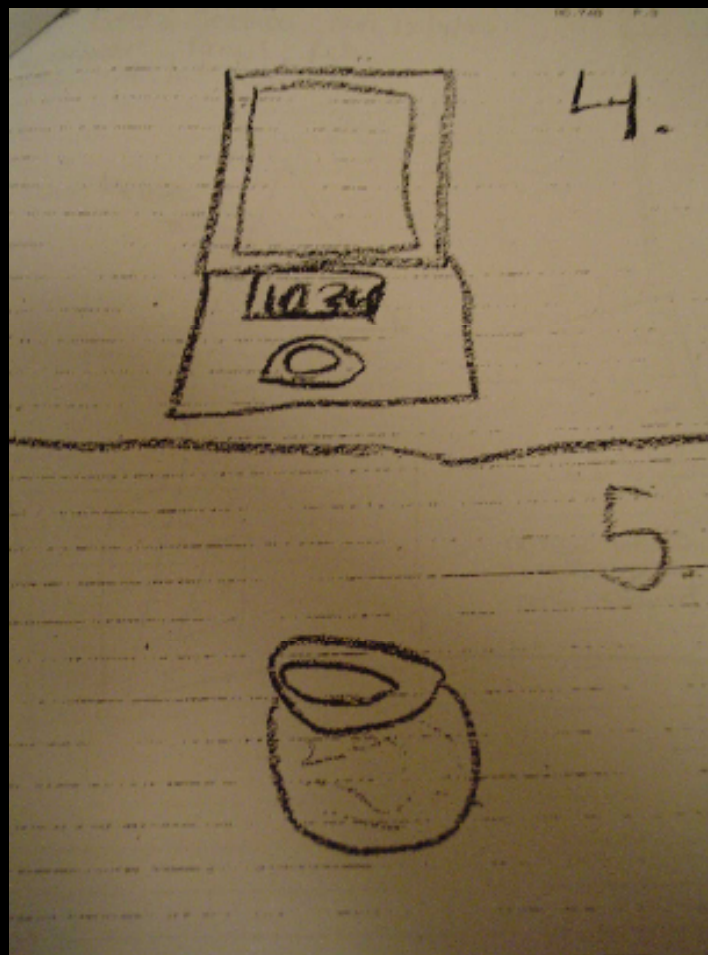
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Measuring the “medicine”



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Measuring and storing the “medicine”



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Forensic Medical Exam



- Full head to toe examination
- Height/weight/reach measurements
- Urine screen

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Placement of DEC Children



- Emergency Custody
- Relative Placement
- Foster Care
- Family Reunification
- Family Maintenance
- Termination of Parental Rights
- Adoption / Legal Guardianship / Long-Term Foster Care

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Evaluation of Placement



- The SAFETY of the home
- The best interest of the child
- Parent is proximal to placement to facilitate visitation
- Ability to protect the child from parents if necessary
- Placement of siblings
- Willingness to facilitate case plan
- Ability to provide legal permanence if reunification fails

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Meth Use and Parenting



Bing Stage Dangers to Children Include:

- **Physical Abuse**
 - Parent is agitated, increased violence
- **Sexual Abuse**
 - Libido is increased, risk of sexual abuse high
- **Neglect**
 - Focused on own needs, ignores child's needs

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Meth Use and Parenting



- **Crash has 4 phases:**

1. Insomnia, exhaustion, fatigue, paranoia, auditory hallucinations, violence, irritability, aggression
2. Intense sleep: up to 3 days, body can starve & begin to catabolize muscle: danger of coma & seizures
3. Intense hunger, eating, disorientation, depression
4. Depression: lasting up to 5 months

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Meth Use and Parenting



Crash Stage Dangers to Children Include:

- **Physical Abuse**
 - Violence, caretaker easily agitated
- **Sexual Abuse**
 - Caretaker unaware of other's access to children, may leave kids with unsafe people
- **Neglect**
 - Lack of supervision, neglecting child's basic needs, not taking kids to school, medical and dental neglect

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Safety Tips When Encountering an Under-the- Influence Meth User



- Talk slowly, clearly & continuously in non-threatening manner
- Stand-still at 1st face-to-face contact
- Keep a distance of 7 to 10 feet
- Keep your hands in front of you (any movement can be interpreted as a sign of aggression)
- Slowly, walk backing out maintaining eye contact until you are safely away from harm

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Other Risk Factors to Social Workers



- Majority of drug labs will have ready to use accessible weapons
- Drug labs range from small “Beavis and Butthead” type, to Mid-Level Brokers to Organized Crime
 - Distinguish CPS role from that of Law Enforcement
- Significant finding include some level of relative/other family involvement
 - Generational Meth Users
 - Generational Meth Cookers

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Assessment of Relative Caregivers Home



- **Adoption and Safe Families Act**
- **Safety of relatives home**
- **Relative ability to care and protect the child**
- **Criminal background check**

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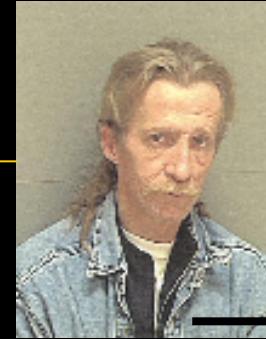
Relative Caregivers Need to Know:



- The children's needs for medical assessment, testing and on-going treatment
- What symptoms to watch for and what to do should any be present
- Their responsibilities as temporary caregivers
- What CPS follow-up will entail

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Generations of Abuse



Mom used
meth while
pregnant.

Toxic amount of
meth accessible to
5 year old girl and
7 year old boy.

15 year old girl lived
in a house with a meth
lab and tested positive
for amphetamines.

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Family Maintenance and Reunification Services



- Counseling
- Parent education
- Child care training
- Day or Residential Treatment
- Random Drug Testing
- Respite Care
- Supervised visitation

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Denial of Family Reunification



- Chronic or abusive history of drug use
- Lack of change in behavior that brought the children into CPS custody
- Prolonged incarceration

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Children are victims Child Abuse is a crime!



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Results of DEC Guidelines



Crime of the Week → **Search**

Booking #P157490

Date of Booking 3/17/2006




First Name: MICHELLE
Middle Name: J
Last Name: THOMPSON
Date of Birth: 2/5/1976
Height: 5'07"
Weight: 180
Hair Color: BROWN
Eye Color: BROWN
Race: WHITE
Sex: FEMALE
In Custody For:
001 FELONY COUNT OF DANGEROUS DRUG-MANUFACTURE
001 FELONY COUNT OF DANGEROUS DRUG-VIOLATION
001 FELONY COUNT OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA VIOLATION

Crime of the Week → **Search**

Booking #P157492

Date of Booking 3/17/2006



First Name: DANNY
Middle Name: E
Last Name: MITCHELL
Date of Birth: 1/19/1974
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 145
Hair Color: BROWN
Eye Color: HAZEL
Race: WHITE
Sex: MALE
In Custody For:
001 FELONY COUNT OF DANGEROUS DRUG-MANUFACTURE
002 FELONY COUNT OF CHILD/VUL ADULT ABUSE-INTENT
001 FELONY COUNT OF DANG DRUG-POSS EQUIP FOR MFG
PRE-TRIAL INMATES ARE INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY!

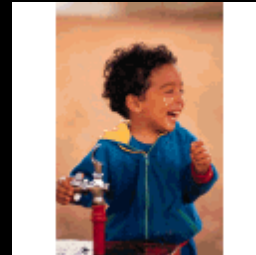
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CONCLUSION :
Parents... they just walk away...
CHILDREN LIVING IN METH LABS AND DRUG HOUSES NEED TO BE HEARD, AND WE GIVE THOSE SILENT VICTIMS A VOICE

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Questions and Answers?



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